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Man charged for fraud and forgery in real estate scheme

George O'Dell aka Emmanuel Roddy bilked investors of more than \$70,000

(Indianapolis, Ind.) Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry announced today that criminal charges have been filed against George O'Dell for scamming two out-of-state investors in a deal to purchase an Indianapolis apartment complex that was never for sale. O'Dell has been charged with one count of Fraud on a Financial Institution (Class C Felony), five counts of Forgery (Class C Felony) and two counts of Theft (Level 6 Felony). The charges are a result of an investigation by the Marion County Prosecutor's Office Grand Jury Division.

According to the probable cause affidavit, O'Dell used Emmanuel ("Manny") Roddy's identity to gain employment with an Indianapolis-based property management company. While working for the company, O'Dell allegedly informed two investors from California that the Woodview Terrace apartment complex, located on the near eastside of Indianapolis, was for sale and offered them part ownership. Both investors were instructed to send George O'Dell, going by his alias Emmanuel Roddy, \$30,000 and \$40,000 respectively for the investment. The funds were wired to a bank account opened by O'Dell in Roddy's name. The bank signature card included Roddy's social security number and another individual's driver's license number, and an address belonging to O'Dell. Over the course of the investigation it was discovered that the apartment complex was never for sale.

It is further alleged that O'Dell, while working maintenance for Park Place Property Management, admitted to his employer that he stole two checks and changed the payee name in order to cash them. After disclosing this information, O'Dell was terminated from his position.

A pre-trial conference is scheduled for September 9 at 9:00 a.m. in criminal court 5.

A charge of a crime is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.